

OBITUARY NOV. 7, 1871—ÆTAT 82.

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**Origin and History of the Tammany Society,
with Some Account of Its Patron Saint
and Its Indian Customs.**

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Its Victories, Its Schisms and Its Defeats.

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Proclivities of the Old Time "Pig-Pen."

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Curious Chapter of Local Political History.

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On Tuesday, November 7, terminated the political power of one of the most potent organizations of its kind that has yet existed in this or any other city of the Union; for, verily, in the days that have gone by, so great has been the influence of the Tammany Society that it has been able to control the destinies of the city, to make and unmake its laws, to confer legislative honors. It has been a very despot in the democratic body, and, true to the general course of despotism. It eventually became so imbued with corruption that it has been shorn of its power by the strong will of the people who have experienced its advances and its inequalities; and it is even now a thing of the past. It is a thing that has been done by the next Legislature. It is usual when a notable individual passes away to tell the story of his life, as a guide or a warning to those who are left behind. We propose to do the same with Tammany, for its history will be found an instructive one, in trying to bring to the reader's mind the recollections of an incident that has so recently passed as great an excitement as that which has ruled in this city for the last two or three months.

THE TAMMANY SOCIETY IS almost coexistent with the Union—not the confederation as it was originally constituted, but the federal Union as it was finally established, with an elective President. It was instituted on the 12th of May, 1789, about two weeks after General Washington had taken the oath of office, as the first President of the United States, on the balcony of the old City Hall in Wall street, at the foot of Nassau street. The Cincinnati Society, which was established at the close of the war, was said to be monarchical, or, rather, aristocratic, in its tendency, when first formed—for before its constitution was amended, on the suggestion of Washington and other original members, it evidently tended towards the establishment of a hereditary order. The organization of a society that would be antagonistic to such tendencies, and that would

preserve our democratic institutions, as far as possible, from being infected by the adoption of any aristocratic principles, was doubtless the original intention of the founders of Tammany, who derived the name of their association from that of an Indian chief, who is supposed to have been alive as late as the year 1659, and "whose attachment to liberty was greater than his love of life."

Of this chief, Chief Welden, the author of a "Mission to the Indians," published half a century ago, writes that all that is known of him is that "he was a Delaware chief, who never had his equal. The fame of this great man extended even among the whites, who fabricated numerous legends respecting him, which I never heard, however, from the mouth of an Indian, and therefore believe to be fabulous. In the Revolutionary war his enthusiastic

The Society was, as we have remarked, originally composed of twelve men, of various denominations and professions, who met at the residence of one of its members, Mr. John Mendenhall, on the 1st day of May in every year. On that day a numerous society of his votaries walked together in procession through the streets of Philadelphia, their hats decorated with buck's tails, and proceeded to a handsome rural place, out of the town, which they called the "wigwam," where, after a long talk, or Indian speech, and after the delivery of some address of peace and friendship had been duly smoked, they spent the day in festivity and mirth." This chief of the Delaware Nation is recorded by another writer to have been the head of the powerful confederacy of the Lenape Nation; and that his wigwam stood on the spot where Princeton College now stands.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY.
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Another statement assures us that his real name was Tamamond, and that he was settled in the territory of Pennsylvania, near the Schuylkill, when William Penn came to America; but that at the time of his death he resided in Bucks county, near Doylestown, and is buried near a spring about four miles from that place. He is presumed to have been present at the great council held under the elm tree at Shakamaxon, upon Penn's first arrival, as all the tribes of the Lenni Lenape are said to have been there. The following is a documented statement in evidence to this effect, as no treaty was signed at the first interview, which was merely a preliminary pow-wow, for the exchange of friendly assurances. The first treaty for the purchase of lands made by Penn with the Indians is dated April 23, 1663, and in it Tamamond and Melamequan relinquish their right and title to a tract of land lying between Pennepack and Neshamony creeks. In the great treaty of May 20, 1666, by which a large portion of Pennsylvania was acquired, the name of Tamamond does not appear, which naturally leads to the conclusion that he died between the execution of the two treaties. In the account of his second visit to the great council, he is called by the first name "ash old man, yet vigorous and of sound mind," with high notions of liberty, but easily won by the amity and peaceable address of the Governor."

The manner of the admission of members is by the candidates being proposed at one meeting, elected at the next, and admitted at a succeeding one. This order is not regularly observed, and the members fail to appear for initiation in due course, the question of admission cannot be brought before the meeting again for three months. A candidate, in answer to the question, "What is the annual dues?" The initiation fee is \$3, and nearly a unanimous vote that to become a son of Sam Tammany is certain.

PRECURSORS OF THE TAMMANY SOCIETY.

The canonization of Tammany appears to have been the invention of the witty John Trumbull, whose Hudibrastic poem, entitled "McFingal," created quite a furor on its publication, after the close of the war of Independence, and the name appears first to have been applied to various societies which existed in this city and in various parts of the country before and during the Revolution, and were known both as the "Sons of Liberty" and the "Sons of St. Tammany." These organizations, however, were dissolved or died out after the establishment of peace, their object having then been attained, and it was not until those realizations of American rights came that many who had been brought together for freedom were still strongly imbued with nationalistic principles that the new society, bearing the name of Tammany, and which has continued to this day, was instituted.

It is said that it was owing to the many societies bearing the name of St. George, St. Andrew and St. David, and all of which in their commencement breathed fervent loyalty to the British sovereign, that Trumbull was led to the search and discovery of genuine American guardian, the use of whose name would seem to be recompense for the monopoly of all the saints in the calendar by European nations, and the tomahawks or laying their homes waste with fire. We have already stated that one of the principal causes which led to the foundation of the Society was anti-British sentiment, and that adopted by the Society was that of the late St. Andrew was then the President of that society in this State, and the objectionable feature in his laws was that it was a society of men of no worth.

It is, however, at the urgent request of W. C. C. modified, but still exists in the society to some extent.

The application of it to the "Sons of Liberty" was thought to place them on a level with their opponents.

EVENTS WHICH LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY.

To collect the threads which, when woven into a fabric, tell the complete story of Tammany, it is necessary to go back to the very beginning of the

John Campbell, Gabriel Furman, John Burns, Jonathan Pierce, Thomas Greenleaf, Abel Howland, Cortlandt Van Buren and Joseph Godwin; Treasurer, Thomas Asst; Secretary, Anthony Bristat, and Corresponding Secretary, John H. Bristat. Thomas Greenleaf and Cortlandt Van Buren were anti-federalists and all the rest were federalists, so that the first democratic slogan was then scarcely appropriate to the council.

In 1790, William Pitt Smith became Grand Sachem and the office of sachem was filled by John Fierard, who was elected to the office of sachem by the promoters of our State canals and a gentleman to whom the city is indebted for much of its historical collections.

THE SACHAM IN THEIR INDIAN COSTUME.

On the 23d of July, 1793, occurred one of the most interesting events recorded in the annals of the city, the first public demonstration of the principles upon which it was founded. On that day Alexander McTearney, a hair-bread Greek In-

diety and those of the Democratic General Committee were very and zealously held in "MARBLE'S LONG ROOM," by the name the Wigwam was likewise known. The occasion was the celebration of the desire for the triumph of democratic principles; and though the party was at that period constantly menaced by the divisions of Burrites, Lawlenses and Critchfords, yet all united in their desire to proceed harmoniously to the discomfiture of the federalists and all who disregarded the rights of the people.

At the meeting there were present a number of a large body of members, who began to discuss the propriety and expediency of raising funds for the erection of suitable quarters, and of carrying out the principles of the party, and the subject was attempted in 1792. Consequently in 1802 a Tontine was opened for the building of a splendid wigwam on the corner of Broadway and Nassau Street, where the matter ended as the subscribers would not pay up, because the stock would not sell at a profit.

Shortly after Governor's election, when the federal party had become thoroughly prostrated, a division broke out in the democratic ranks between the Old Guard of Clinton, Chase, Livingston, and Colton, and Burr; the latter being a bitter enemy to the party and of having conspired to defeat Jefferson, while his friend, Colton, John Swartwout, and Morgan Lewis, were all devoted to him. He led to a duel at Hoboken, where Swartwout was wounded and Mr. Clinton, having a button shot from off his coat, was not unwilling to over-estimate his own prowess. He was afterwards elected as a stump candidate against Morgan Lewis, and thereby became estranged from the democratic party; but in 1806, such was the popularity of Clinton, that he was elected Governor by the Clintonians to unite with the Burrites against the Lewisites, which was kept hid from the "hardling men," as the members of the latter party were called. He expected DeWitt Clinton of seeking the favor of the federalists, and had denounced him therefore, and who on discovering the alliance, declared it to be a gross error. He was elected Governor in 1807, his political doom was sealed.

BUYING THE BONES OF DECEASED HEROES
 On April 1891, a party of twelve persons, headed in procession to Wallabout, Long Island, where they had the corner stone of a vault in which were to be interred the bones of a British sea captain and his sailors, who had been killed in a battle fought in the East River, during the Revolutionary war. In making improvements near the Navy Yard, the bones of the British captain and his sailors, these remains— which had for some time been scattered along the shore— and preserved by Mrs. John Smith, of the city, were discovered. The discovery was immediately appealed to by Dr. Mitchell to give them a decent resting place and reinterment in the vault.

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the city streets, and the lower part of which building was destroyed by fire in 1872. The second floor. On October 13, 1874, the city of New York erected a monument in memory of Columbus, that day being the third centenary of his birth. The monument was composed of four sides of the monument exhibiting the most important events in the life of the great navigator. The sides were decorated with figures to increase the curiosities in the museum, and induced the citizens to visit it. The city also intended to enlarge the museum to increase his salary by charging admission to the museum. The city members to view his treasures. He also claimed as his right to be consulted in the matter of the collection, which for some time created much excitement and debate in the society, until the matter was referred to the city council. The city council, on June 25, 1895, relinquishing their right and

the in this museum to the Wisconsin, who had been made to make it up, on the Tammany Museum, in honor of its founders, and that it should be open free to the members of the society and their families. The Tammany Museum was sold to Mr. W. J. Waldron, and after passing through various hands became the foundation of what was afterwards called Souder's Museum, in Chatham street.

UPON THE DEATH OF HON. HENRY DROWNE.
Upon the death of Hon. Henry Drowne, in 1810, the Legislature of the State nominated De Witt Clinton to fill his place, which caused considerable excitement in the Tammany Society and led to the formation of the Clintonian Association. In its quarters, when Clinton was severely denounced for his ambition and opposition, or at least lukewarmness, to Mr. Madison and the administration, were to be seen Mr. B. M. Johnson, in opposition to him, and Dr. Mitchell, Tenet's workman.

NO OFFICES FOR NATURALIZED CITIZENS.

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The Tammany Society had continued for some years to advance rapidly in wealth and prosperity, and was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, passed in 1806. In 1811, foreseeing the necessity for a grand rallying place during the excitement that would be consequent upon the anticipated

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the excitement in 1795 about the Jay treaty, the majority in the United States Senate who voted against it, and the fact that the treaty was not ratified, but the late Mr. W. V. Francis tells us that he did not like the treaty for the same reason. He remarks, with what no seems like a touch of irony, "I believe old Tammany was then too intent upon the business of the day to be able to think before them of gathering together the relics of nature, art, beads, wampum, tomahawks, beads, and pipes, and to make a collection of them with all that could be found of Indian literature in war songs and hieroglyphical bark, to take any precedence of the great and illustrious men of the day for the safety of the Union." "Tammany, to be honest, adhered to them by a strong conservative feeling of the floor. From the influence of foreign contamination."

One of the great lights and beloved idols of the Tannam society at this period, was the erudite Dr. R. S. Marshall, D. D., who was delivered in the old Presbyterian church the annual address of the society, in which he gave a semi-fanciful, semi-historical account of the life of the great patron saint of the organization. This address was intended to furnish a biography of that worthy—who, according to the legend, was a native of the island, and an ardent devotee of the goddess. It contains an oration purporting to be delivered by the chief to his children of the thirteen tribes. The oration is a fine specimen of the English idiom, and is published in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of London's Cyclopaedia of Asiatic Literature*, "volume 1, page 10." Dr. Francis informs us that at a later period, in 1840, he was invited to deliver the annual address of the society, and that he did so, in the name of the society, as "Sachem, in another address on the same subject, in which he congratulated the members on their patron saint."

that their squaws and papooses were all well,"¹ and the following day the Governor's letter was received. About 1798 the place of dwelling was removed to the new wigwam, a low wooden building, with an adjoining tavern, at the southeast corner of Nassau street, and the wigwam was the headquarters of the movement was the celebrated patriotic Abraham R. Martin, a whig of the Revolution and a man in whom the people had great confidence. He was killed in later times as "Bronx Martin," and it was about the time of this removal that the Federalists lost their popularity. The Federalist principles and policies advocated by Jefferson then made the principles, and the democratic party shortly became known as the "Jeffersonians," and the "Frimans," who now deserted the Federalists, being more oligarchical tendencies, so that after the election of

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continued formidable in the State, and the union with them of the Christianized, modern, educated, and powerful, thus placed the democracy in a decided minority, so that upon the resignation of Governor Tompkins, it was immediately forced to elect President, Mr. Clinch, and elected Governor, whereupon he immediately removed from office many of the "Bucktails" or Tammany men; and the consequence of this was, that in a decided and hostile minority in both houses of the Legislature. After these preparations were made, the next campaign was commenced throughout the State, in which Mr. Van Buren and Governor Tompkins took a conspicuous part, and which, in 1836, led to the democratic electing a large majority in both houses of the Legislature, and Appointment, and in every respect obtaining a substantial victory, though Tompkins, their candidate for Governor, was defeated by a large margin. Success was secured by the aid of the federalists and the popularity of his paln policy.

Among the "protestors" was the Tammany Society, the history of the advocate of a protectionist policy. In 1914 the Tammany Society was suffering severely from a prostration of its funds, its treasury being empty. The Tammany Society adopted an address to the people of the United States in which it used the word "protection" in a new sense. It recapitulated the disastrous condition of the country occasioned by the extraordinary issue of paper money by the banks, the issue of bonds, the enormous quantities of goods which were being imported and reduced the demand for American labor, and lamented the rambling character of the day, which in the shape of lotteries, billiard rooms, and other amusements, was a waste of the time and money of the people, and a drain on the habits of industry and economy. On the 11th of October, of that year, the society passed resolutions in which it exhorted its members to refrain from "extravagance in living, from the use of foreign importation and use of any species of foreign manufacture which could be conveniently substituted by home products." It also urged its members to vote to the prominent political men of the country, most of whom were their candidates for Assembly "awfully scrupulously" and to abstain from all "extraneous" going to the polls. In the following year the "hunkers" nominated a State ticket entirely of their own making, and the leading and most ardent "bar-burners" refused to support them. As the result was that the whigs swept the State by an average majority of over thirty thousand votes, the Tammany Society, in its annual canvass of 1915, when both parties sent delegates to the Baltimore Convention, neither of which were permitted to cast a vote, the "hunkers" evening out the vote by nominating a ticket of the General Lewis Cass and Lieutenant Governor Henry Doige as candidates; but the "bar-burners" evened out the vote by nominating a ticket of the ex-President Van Buren and Ohio Governor Francis Pickens as their standard-bearers. The result, as our readers are aware, was the election of General Taft, and the Tammany Society, in the votes given in this State to Cass and Van Buren being united on one democratic candidate it would have changed the result of the election.

THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION, 1916.

We have already devoted so much space to this

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The next event of historical importance transpired in the history of Tammany was the movement for the election of General Jackson to the Presidency as was the case with the election of Governor Van Buren. It was then the political manager of the Albany Bureaucracy. His first step was to conciliate the Clintonians, who were the bitterest enemies of the friends of the General, and the arrangement was first made public at a meeting of the General Republican Convention at Albany, N. Y., on the 10th of September, 1823, when a resolution was passed in which it was recommended that only such persons should be eligible for nomination as were "in favor of General Jackson being the next Democratic candidate for the Presidency." Major Noah was elected to the position of President of the *National Adaptor*, and in the election which followed, in 1823, he received twenty out of thirty votes, and was elected to the position. The State was entitled the electors being then chosen by districts and not by general ticket. Mr. Van Buren was also elected to the position of Secretary of the Albany Bureaucracy, and in 1825 he was called by him to the position of Secretary of State. That office ran Buren, however, resigned in 1826, and was succeeded by John Hoffman, who was Vice President during Jackson's second term, and as early as 1834 was distinctly marked in the eyes of the Albany Bureaucracy as the successor of Van Buren.

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Tammamites were accused of "going up the back stairs to the Wigwam" and organizing meetings before the rank and file had an opportunity to be heard. The Tammany Club was organized by the many Society always held their meetings in the hall the inner circle of controlling spirits were for many years accustomed to meet regularly at the address of the Club. On the last night of the year, on an important occasion, the proceedings of the main body were cut and dried.

THE LOUD POC PARTY.

On October 27, the meeting was held in Tammany hall to ratify the democratic nominations for State officers. The equal rights party was strongly opposed to some of the nominees, it being alleged that they were the nominees of the trusts and monopolies. Its members consequently took possession of the hall immediately the doors were opened and prevented the chair being taken by the democrats. The speaker, after a short address, closed the meeting, and proposed Joel Curtis instead; whereupon a scene of confusion followed that, perhaps, excels anything of the kind that ever took place in the history of Tammany. The Tammany forces of overpowering numbers the regular democrats were finally driven from the room, and

the fathers of your Order, to whom the public voice often conceded the interests of your city or your State. Loud clamors have been raised and angry words have been uttered, but the time has not yet come to later days. Nor is it to be denied that in the growth of wealth and its temptations the same old purity has not always been preserved. The book-keepers of the world have not been able to estimate the infirmities of human nature. Artful men have at times won your confidence and betrayed it. It is a poor defence of such delinquencies that many of our countrymen have associated themselves with men who have scarcely existed as many months as this society has years, have compared by public plunder mountains of wealth, in comparison with which the wealth of the world is but a trifle. The men of Tammany during many years of power is utterly insignificant. Be that as it may, recollection, even though well founded, is not justification.

If the venerable orator had lived but a year or two longer he would have truly found "the back-stall of St. Tammany gives no sure exemption from the law of God and man." It is not necessary now to go beyond its pale to find "artful men" who "have gained by public plunder more

in the midst of the confusion the gall was thrust into the eyes of many of our people, and to add to their investigations in the dark. However, they held possession of the headquarters, and they were determined to avail themselves of the opportunity. The "Loco-focos" were not slow to take advantage of the situation. They had a box of the then newly invented "loco-foco" matches was opportunely produced, and thus light was rendered to the darkness. The "Loco-focos" were quick and agree upon a ticket to suit themselves, and to pass resolutions in accordance with their principles, after which they adjourned. The *other side* of the matter was that the "Loco-focos" were equal to the other men the "Loco-focos," which appellation, instead of being given to a faction only, was, however, attributed to the whole of the party. The Democratic party, who accepted the name as an emblem of promptitude and proudly wore it as a badge of honor.

THEIR OPPOSITION TO TAMMANY.

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ALTHOUGH DEFEATED BY THE KNOW-NOTHINGS AND SHUTTER. At the close of the following month, a caucus of the friends of the Know-Nothing ticket was placed in nomination on which were the names of Messrs. Samuel H. Hays, John W. Morrow and Andrew H. Green. It was defeated by a vote of 242 to 20, no effort having been made to insure its success. At the election of the charter Tammany succeeded in electing its candidates, while members of the Ring were placed at the head of the ticket. Those high in the civic offices have performed their duties for the public good, and now for their acts have brought dishonor and have laid their hands on the political rule of the once honorable and powerful city. The history of the exciting contest through which we have just passed.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 17, 1871.

At the business session of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland yesterday morning, a proposition was made to send a delegation to the National Convention, to be held in Washington, D. C., the fund to be raised by subscriptions from the survivors of the Army of the Cumberland. The proposition was carried, and Wm. S. Rosecranz was then chosen president of the Association. September 7, 1872, at Dayton, Ohio, was the time and place chosen for the next meeting of the Association. The meeting was adjourned.